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Medicaid FFS Pharmacy Changes for Behavioral Health Medications

In an effort to align NYS Medicaid FFS coverage with the pharmacy changes associated with the New York City Behavioral Transition to Managed Care (MMC) plans, atypical long-acting injectables, as well as injectable naltrexone extended release (Vivitrol®) will be covered as both a medical and pharmacy benefit effective October 1, 2015. In addition, course limitations on smoking cessation medications have been removed.

Prescribers should continue to use their professional discretion to determine the best method of accessing injectable medications that require the administration of a health care practitioner.

Likewise, pharmacists should continue to use their professional judgement when providing such medications directly to the enrollee. Medicaid policy for appropriate delivery of medications, including adherence to signature requirements should also be followed.

For additional information on Medicaid FFS delivery requirements for prescription drugs, see page 11 of the September 2011 issue of the Medicaid Update, titled “New York Medicaid Pharmacy Services Signature Requirement”, as well as page 15 of the January 2013 issue of the Medicaid Update, titled “Important Reminder to Pharmacies and DME Providers”.